

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): Apparatus for treating a condition of an ear of a subject, comprising a stimulator adapted to ~~stimulate~~ activate at least one site of the subject at a level sufficient to treat the ear condition, the site selected from the list consisting of: an otic ganglion of the subject, an afferent fiber going into the otic ganglion of the subject, an efferent fiber going out of the otic ganglion of the subject, a sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG) of the subject, an anterior ethmoidal nerve of the subject, a posterior ethmoidal nerve of the subject, a communicating branch between an anterior ethmoidal nerve and a retro-orbital branch of an SPG of the subject, a communicating branch between a posterior ethmoidal nerve and a retro-orbital branch of an SPG of the subject, a greater palatine nerve of the subject, a lesser palatine nerve of the subject, a sphenopalatine nerve of the subject, a communicating branch between a maxillary nerve and an SPG of the subject, a nasopalatine nerve of the subject, a posterior nasal nerve of the subject, an infraorbital nerve of the subject, a vidian nerve of the subject, a greater superficial petrosal nerve of the subject, and a lesser deep petrosal nerve of the subject.

Claims 2-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the condition includes hearing loss, and wherein the apparatus is adapted to treat the hearing loss.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the condition includes a tumor of the ear, and wherein the apparatus is adapted to treat the tumor.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the site includes the otic ganglion of the subject, and wherein the stimulator is adapted to ~~stimulate~~ activate the otic ganglion of the subject.

Claims 11-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the site includes the SPG of the subject, and wherein the stimulator is adapted to ~~stimulate~~ activate the SPG.

Claims 14-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in cephalic blood flow of the subject sufficient to treat the ear condition.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in otic blood flow of the subject sufficient to treat the ear condition.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in vasomotor control over blood vessels associated with a vestibulocochlear nerve of the subject sufficient to increase clearance, from an inner ear of the ear, of at least one constituent accumulated in the inner ear, the at least one constituent selected from the list consisting of: a metabolite and fluid.

Claims 31-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-30~~ claim 1, wherein the condition includes inner-ear ischemia, and wherein the apparatus is adapted to treat the inner-ear ischemia.

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (currently amended): The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-30~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in molecular passage across a blood brain barrier (BBB) of the subject.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of a therapeutic agent from a systemic blood circulation of the subject through the BBB into a vicinity of the ear of the subject, so as to treat the ear condition.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the list consisting of: a chemotherapeutic agent, a diuretic, an anti-inflammatory drug, an anti-viral drug, an anti-bacterial drug, a transtympanic agent, and an anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor compound, and wherein the

stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to the magnitude that increases passage of the selected therapeutic agent.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of the therapeutic agent from the systemic blood circulation through the BBB into a vicinity of a vestibulocochlear nerve of the subject.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the therapeutic agent includes a neurotrophic factor, and wherein the stimulator is adapted to configure the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of the neurotrophic factor.

Claim 42 (canceled)

Claim 43 (currently amended): The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-30~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulator comprises an electrical stimulator, adapted to drive a current into the site, so as to ~~stimulate~~ activate the site.

Claim 44 (original): The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the electrical stimulator is adapted to be implanted in a body of the subject.

Claims 45-52 (canceled)

Claim 53 (currently amended): A method for treating a condition of an ear of a subject, comprising ~~stimulating~~ activating at least one site of the subject, so as to treat the ear condition, the site selected from the list consisting of: an otic ganglion of the subject, an afferent fiber going into the otic ganglion of the subject, an efferent fiber going out of the otic ganglion of the subject, a sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG) of the subject, an anterior ethmoidal nerve of the subject, a posterior ethmoidal nerve of the subject, a communicating branch between an anterior ethmoidal nerve and a retro-orbital branch of an SPG of the subject, a communicating branch between a posterior ethmoidal nerve and a retro-orbital branch of an SPG of the subject, a greater palatine nerve of the subject, a lesser palatine nerve of the subject, a sphenopalatine nerve of the subject, a communicating branch between a maxillary nerve and an SPG of the subject, a

nasopalatine nerve of the subject, a posterior nasal nerve of the subject, an infraorbital nerve of the subject, a vidian nerve of the subject, a greater superficial petrosal nerve of the subject, and a lesser deep petrosal nerve of the subject.

Claims 54-58 (canceled)

Claim 59 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein the condition includes hearing loss, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises ~~stimulating~~ activating the site so as to treat the hearing loss.

Claim 60 (canceled)

Claim 61 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein the condition includes a tumor of the ear, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises ~~stimulating~~ activating the site so as to treat the tumor.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein the site includes the otic ganglion of the subject, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises ~~stimulating~~ activating the otic ganglion of the subject, so as to treat the ear condition.

Claims 63-64 (canceled)

Claim 65 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein the site includes the SPG of the subject, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises ~~stimulating~~ activating the SPG, so as to treat the ear condition.

Claims 66-79 (canceled)

Claim 80 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in cephalic blood flow of the subject sufficient to treat the ear condition.

Claim 81 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in otic blood flow of the subject sufficient to treat the ear condition.

Claim 82 (currently amended): The method according to claim 53, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in vasomotor control over blood vessels associated with a vestibulocochlear

nerve of the subject sufficient to increase clearance, from an inner ear of the ear, of at least one constituent accumulated in the inner ear, the at least one constituent selected from the list consisting of: a metabolite and fluid, so as to treat the ear condition.

Claims 83-86 (canceled)

Claim 87 (currently amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 53-82~~ claim 53, wherein the condition includes inner-ear ischemia, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises ~~stimulating~~ activating the site so as to treat the inner-ear ischemia.

Claim 88 (canceled)

Claim 89 (currently amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 53-82~~ claim 53, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to induce an increase in molecular passage across a blood brain barrier (BBB) of the subject.

Claim 90 (currently amended): The method according to claim 89, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of a therapeutic agent from a systemic blood circulation of the subject through the BBB into a vicinity of the ear of the subject, so as to treat the ear condition.

Claim 91 (currently amended): The method according to claim 90, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the list consisting of: a chemotherapeutic agent, a diuretic, an anti-inflammatory drug, an anti-viral drug, an anti-bacterial drug, a transtympanic agent, and an anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor compound, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to the magnitude that increases passage of the selected therapeutic agent.

Claim 92 (currently amended): The method according to claim 90, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of the therapeutic agent from the systemic blood circulation through the BBB into a vicinity of a vestibulocochlear nerve of the subject.

Claim 93 (currently amended): The method according to claim 90, wherein the therapeutic agent includes a neurotrophic factor, and wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises configuring the ~~stimulation~~ activation of the site to increase the molecular passage across the BBB to a magnitude that increases passage of the neurotrophic factor.

Claim 94 (canceled)

Claim 95 (currently amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 53-82~~ claim 53, wherein ~~stimulating~~ activating the site comprises driving an electrical current into the site, so as to ~~stimulate~~ activate the site.

Claims 96-104 (canceled)